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Interviews: 605 adults  
Dates: April 12-13, 2003

48 Male  
52 Female  
[109]

## FINAL

Study #6034  
NBC News/Wall Street Journal  
April 2003

**Please note: all results are shown as percentages unless otherwise stated.**

**The margin of error for 605 interviews is  $\pm 4.0\%$**

Unless otherwise noted by a "+", all previous data shown reflects responses among all adults.

1. All in all, do you think that things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02+</u>	<u>9/02</u>	<u>7/02</u>	<u>6/02</u>	<u>4/02</u>	<i>High</i> <u>9/01</u>	<i>Low</i> <u>7/92+</u>	
Right direction.....	62	36	43	44	42	40	52	53	72	14	[137]
Wrong track.....	22	47	42	42	43	42	31	28	11	71	
Mixed (VOL).....	13	14	13	14	12	14	14	15	11	9	
Not sure.....	3	3	2	-	3	4	3	4	6	6	
		<u>1/02</u>	<u>12/01</u>	<u>9/01</u>	<u>6/01</u>	<u>4/01</u>	<u>3/01</u>	<u>1/01</u>			
		62	70	72	43	47	52	45			
		20	15	11	39	39	32	36			
		14	12	11	14	11	11	15			
		4	3	6	4	3	5	4			

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters

- 2a. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job that George W. Bush is doing as president?

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>3/29-30/03</u>	<u>3/23/03</u>	<u>3/17/03</u>	<u>2/03</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02+</u>	<i>High</i> <u>11/01</u>	<i>Low</i> <u>6/01</u>	
Approve.....	71	66	67	62	61	54	62	63	88	50	[138]
Disapprove.....	23	29	28	33	31	40	33	31	7	35	
Not sure.....	6	5	5	5	8	6	5	6	5	15	
		<u>9/02</u>	<u>7/02</u>	<u>6/02</u>	<u>5/02</u>	<u>4/02</u>	<u>1/02</u>	<u>12/01</u>	<u>11/01</u>	<u>9/01</u>	
		64	67	69	75	74	82	85	88	82	
		30	27	23	18	20	13	11	7	12	
		6	6	8	7	6	5	4	5	6	

<sup>1</sup> Overnight poll conducted after Colin Powell's speech to the United Nations.

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.



2b. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing in handling the economy?

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02+</u>	<u>9/02</u>	<u>7/02</u>	<u>6/02</u>	
Approve.....	49	44	47	48	48	49	57	[139]
Disapprove.....	42	49	45	44	43	43	34	
Not sure.....	9	7	8	8	9	8	9	
		<u>4/02</u>	<u>1/02</u>	<u>12/01</u>	<u>6/01</u>	<u>4/01</u>	<u>3/01</u>	
		61	63	63	50	51	52	
		30	27	25	38	33	27	
		9	10	12	12	16	21	

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters

2c. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing in handling our foreign policy?

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02+</u>	<u>9/02</u>	<u>7/02</u>	<u>6/02</u>	
Approve.....	70	51	57	58	55	62	64	[140]
Disapprove.....	24	42	36	35	34	28	28	
Not sure.....	6	7	7	7	11	10	8	
		<u>4/02</u>	<u>1/02</u>	<u>12/01</u>	<u>6/01</u>	<u>4/01</u>	<u>3/01</u>	
		68	81	82	50	63	53	
		26	13	12	32	26	20	
		6	6	6	18	11	27	

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

3. If President Bush runs for reelection in 2004, do you think you will probably vote for President Bush or probably vote for the Democratic candidate?

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02+</u>	
Probably vote for President Bush.....	52	41	42	45	[141]
Probably vote for Democratic candidate.....	24	34	28	31	
Vote for another party's candidate (VOL).....	4	3	4	3	
Depends on who opponent is (VOL).....	14	16	20	17	
Not sure.....	6	6	6	4	

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

4a. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else? (IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? (IF "NOT SURE," CODE AS "NOT VERY STRONG DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN." IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party, closer to the Republican Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent?

Strong Democrat.....	16		[142]
Not very strong Democrat.....	10	Skip to Q.4c	
Independent/lean Democrat.....	10		
Strictly independent.....	21		
Independent/lean Republican.....	12		
Not very strong Republican.....	8	CONTINUE	
Strong Republican.....	16		
Other.....	5		
Not sure/nothing.....	2		

**(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO DO NOT SAY THEY ARE A DEMOCRAT IN Q.4a.)**

4b. If there were a presidential primary election in your state, would you vote in the Democratic primary, the Republican primary, or would you wait to vote in the general election?

	<u>4/03</u>		<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02+</u>	
Vote in the Democratic primary.....	6	<b>CONTINUE</b>	8	6	8	<b>[143]</b>
Vote in the Republican primary.....	41		43	43	43	
Wait to vote in general election.....	44	<b>Skip to Q.5a</b>	46	43	42	
Neither/other (VOL).....	3		1	4	3	
Not sure.....	6		2	4	4	

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

**(ASK ONLY OF THE 241 RESPONDENTS (40% OF THE SAMPLE) WHO SAY THAT THEY ARE A DEMOCRAT IN Q.4a OR THAT THEY WOULD VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY IN Q.4b.)**

4c. Let me mention some people who might seek the Democratic nomination for president in 2004. If the next Democratic primary for president were being held today, for which one of the following candidates would you vote? **(IF "NOT SURE," ASK:) Well, which way do you lean?**

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	
Joe Lieberman.....	19	25	20	<b>[144-145]</b>
Richard Gephardt.....	14	17	14	
John Kerry.....	13	14	16	
John Edwards.....	4	7	3	
Carol Moseley Braun.....	4	NA	NA	
Bob Graham.....	3	6	NA	
Howard Dean.....	3	3	1	
Al Sharpton.....	2	2	4	
None (VOL) <sup>1</sup> .....	14	5		
Other (VOL).....	1	1	{6	
Not sure.....	23	20	22	

<sup>1</sup> In December 2002, "None (VOL)" and "Other (VOL)" were one item.

5a. Which ONE or TWO of the following issues and problems do you think should be the top priorities for the President and Congress to address this year? **(ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES. IF "ALL," ASK:) If you absolutely had to choose, which ONE or TWO issues would you say are the biggest priorities?**

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>10/02+</u>	
Strengthening the economy.....	57	45	48	43	<b>[146]</b>
Fighting terrorism.....	34	28	35	36	<b>&gt;</b>
Dealing with health care costs.....	22	26	23	18	
Protecting Social Security.....	20	18	19	17	
Dealing with Iraq.....	10	25	19	18	
Dealing with tax cuts.....	5	7	7	4	
All equally important (VOL).....	12	9	11	16	
None/other (VOL).....	-	-	1	1	
Not sure.....	-	-	-	-	

<sup>1</sup> Prior to January 2003, question was phrased, "... to address over the next several months?"

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters

- 5b. Now I would like to mention a number of policy issues facing the country, and for each one, please tell me who you would prefer to have set the country's policy in that particular area--President Bush and the Republicans or the Democrats in Congress.

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY  
PRESIDENT BUSH AND THE REPUBLICANS

	President Bush And The Republicans	Democrats In Congress	Not Sure	
<b>The war on terrorism</b>				<b>[148]</b>
April 2003.....	71	19	10	
January 2003.....	63	26	11	
<b>Tax policy</b>				<b>[152]</b>
April 2003.....	52	38	10	
January 2003.....	46	44	10	
<b>The economy</b>				<b>[149]</b>
April 2003.....	46	42	12	
January 2003.....	48	43	9	
<b>Social Security</b>				<b>[151]</b>
April 2003.....	41	45	14	
January 2003.....	39	50	11	
<b>Government spending for education, health, and environmental programs</b>				<b>[150]</b>
April 2003.....	39	51	10	
January 2003.....	43	49	8	
<b>Prescription drugs for seniors</b>				<b>[147]</b>
April 2003.....	38	46	16	
January 2003.....	37	50	13	

**Now turning to Iraq...**

- 6a. Do you think that the United States should or should not have taken military action to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq?

	4/03	3/17/03 <sup>1</sup>	2/03 <sup>2</sup>	1/03	12/02	10/02+	9/02	4/02 <sup>3</sup>	
Should have taken military action.....	76	65	60	56	59	60	58	57	<b>[153]</b>
Should not have taken military action..	17	30	27	36	30	31	30	28	
Depends.....	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7	
Not sure.....	7	5	13	8	11	9	12	8	

<sup>1</sup> On March 17, 2003, this question was phrased, "Do you think that the United States should or should not take..."

<sup>2</sup> Overnight poll conducted after Colin Powell's speech to the United Nations.

<sup>3</sup> In April 2002, this question was phrased, "Do you think that the United States should or should not take military action against Iraq and Saddam Hussein?"

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

- 6b. Do you think that the war in Iraq is generally over with most of the challenges behind us, or do you think that most of the challenges in the war remain ahead?

Most of the challenges behind us.....	22	<b>[154]</b>
Most of the challenges remain ahead.....	71	
Not sure.....	7	

- 6c. I'm going to mention a number of words that people might use to describe their feelings about the war in Iraq, please tell me which TWO or THREE best describe your feelings? **(ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES.)**

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE*

Patriotic.....	50	<b>[155-156]</b>
Proud.....	49	<b>&gt;</b>
Hopeful.....	45	
Worried.....	29	
Anxious.....	23	
Disappointed.....	10	
Joyful.....	6	
Uninterested.....	1	
None (VOL).....	1	
Not sure.....	-	

- 7a. The United States' decision to go to war against Iraq represents a change of military policy from one in which we respond to military actions by hostile countries to one in which we initiate military action when there is a threat of hostility. Do you agree or disagree with this new military policy?

Agree.....	63	<b>[157]</b>
Disagree.....	25	
Not sure.....	12	

- 7b. I'm going to read you a list of nations that some people say pose a potential threat to the United States. For each, please tell me whether you think that the United States should or should not take military action against that nation.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY SHOULD TAKE MILITARY ACTION*

	<u>Should Take Military Action</u>	<u>Should Not Take Military Action</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
North Korea.....	32	54	14	<b>[159]</b>
Syria.....	21	59	20	<b>[160]</b>
Iran.....	21	64	15	<b>[158]</b>

8. Now I'm going to read you some goals that the United States has in the war with Iraq. For each, please tell me whether you think that the United States has been successful in that goal.

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY SUCCESSFUL*

	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Not Successful</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Minimizing Iraqi civilian casualties.....	82	11	7	<b>[161]</b>
Removing Saddam Hussein from power.....	78	13	9	<b>[164]</b>
Making the United States more secure.....	62	30	8	<b>[163]</b>
Finding evidence of weapons of mass destruction.....	36	53	11	<b>[162]</b>

- 9a. When it comes to the strength of the Iraqi military, do you think that the Bush administration did or did not underestimate the situation?

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>3/29-30/03</u>	
Did underestimate the situation.....	24	48	<b>[165]</b>
Did not underestimate the situation.....	73	46	
Not sure.....	3	6	

- 9b. Do you think that capturing or killing Saddam Hussein is necessary to successfully conclude the war in Iraq, or not?

Capturing or killing is necessary.....	61	<b>[166]</b>
Capturing or killing is NOT necessary.....	35	
Not sure.....	4	

10. Since the United States has taken military action against Iraq to remove Saddam Hussein from power, do you think the threat of terrorism in the United States has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>3/17/03<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	
Increased.....	32	52	55	55	<b>[167]</b>
Decreased.....	14	16	10	9	
Stayed about the same.....	52	29	32	35	
Not sure.....	2	3	3	1	

<sup>1</sup> Prior to April 2003, this question was phrased, "If the United States took military action against Iraq to remove Saddam Hussein from power, do you think that the threat of terrorism in the United States would increase, decrease, or stay about the same?"

11. As a result of our actions in Iraq, do you think that America's standing in the world has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same?

Increased.....	32	<b>[168]</b>
Decreased.....	34	
Stayed about the same.....	28	
Not sure.....	6	

12. Do you support or oppose the United States' spending up to sixty billion dollars over the next three years to rebuild Iraq?

Support.....	51	<b>[169]</b>
Oppose.....	41	
Not sure.....	8	

- 13a. Please tell me which comes closer to your point of view once the United States completes military action in Iraq.

**Statement A:** The United States should allow the United Nations to play the major role in rebuilding Iraq with U.S. assistance.

OR

**Statement B:** The United States should play the major role in rebuilding Iraq with some assistance from other countries.

<b>Statement A:</b> UN should play major role.....	41	<b>[170]</b>
<b>Statement B:</b> U.S. should play major role.....	54	
Depends (VOL).....	2	
Not sure.....	3	

- 13b. Based on its role in the recent Iraq conflict, do you think that the United Nations can still effectively function as an international peace-keeping force, or not?

Yes, can effectively function.....	50	<b>[171]</b>
No, cannot effectively function.....	42	
Not sure.....	8	

14. Who do you think poses the greatest threat to the United States--Iraq, other Middle Eastern countries, North Korea, or Al Qaeda?

*THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE*

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03<sup>1</sup></u>	
Al Qaeda.....	42	48	<b>[172]</b>
North Korea.....	27	16	
Other Middle Eastern countries.....	11	NA	
Iraq.....	3	24	
All equally (VOL).....	9	9	
Not sure.....	8	3	

<sup>1</sup>In the previous survey this question did not include "Other Middle Eastern countries" as a possible response.

15. During the war in Iraq, the U.S. military has allowed civilian reporters to travel with military units and report on the war from the front lines. Do you think that this policy is a good idea or a bad idea?

Good idea.....	57	<b>[173]</b>
Bad idea.....	30	
Some of both (VOL).....	10	
Not sure.....	3	



**Turning now to the economy...**

16. During the next twelve months, do you think that the nation's economy will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	<u>10/02+</u>	<u>9/02</u>	<u>7/02</u>	<u>4/02</u>	<u>12/01</u>	<u>4/01</u>	<u>3/01</u> <sup>1</sup>	
Economy will get better.....	51	35	40	41	39	41	50	50	36	28	<b>[174]</b>
Economy will get worse.....	13	25	20	20	18	20	13	15	25	29	
Economy will stay about the same.....	30	37	35	34	39	37	32	32	34	37	
Not sure.....	6	3	5	5	4	2	5	3	5	6	
			<u>10/98+</u>	<u>9/98</u>	<u>4/97</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>7/95</u>	<u>4/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	<u>10/94</u>	
			17	19	19	21	20	24	31	31	
			24	22	22	21	21	23	17	24	
			54	53	57	52	54	50	46	40	
			5	6	2	6	5	3	6	5	
			<u>9/94</u>	<u>6/94</u>	<u>5/94</u>	<u>3/94</u>	<u>1/94</u>	<u>12/93</u>	<u>10/93</u>	<u>9/93</u>	
			28	28	27	29	44	43	21	23	
			24	17	21	16	16	19	27	24	
			44	52	49	52	36	34	50	51	
			4	3	3	3	4	4	2	2	
			<u>7/93</u>	<u>6/93</u>	<u>4/93</u>	<u>3/93</u>	<u>1/93</u>	<u>12/92</u>	<u>5/92</u>	<u>9/91</u>	
			20	23	33	39	50	53	32	31	
			29	27	21	15	9	10	20	24	
			48	47	44	43	39	35	45	40	
			3	3	2	3	2	2	3	5	

<sup>1</sup> Prior to April 2001, this question was phrased, "During the next year..."

+ Results shown reflect responses among registered voters.

17. Do you think that the war with Iraq has had a positive effect, a negative effect, or no effect on economic conditions in the United States?

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>3/17/03</u> <sup>1</sup>	
A positive effect.....	32	40	<b>[175]</b>
A negative effect.....	34	44	
No effect.....	25	10	
Not sure.....	9	6	

<sup>1</sup> In the March survey this question read, "Do you think that a war with Iraq will have...."

18. Which do you think should be a greater priority for the President and Congress this year--stimulating the economy or controlling the federal budget deficit?

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>1/03</u>	<u>12/02</u>	
Stimulating the economy.....	72	67	56	<b>[176]</b>
Controlling the federal budget deficit.....	22	29	24	
Some of both (VOL).....	NA	NA	19	
Not sure.....	6	4	1	

19. Thinking about the war in Iraq and the recent economic slowdown, which of the following statements comes closer to your view?

**Statement A:** Congress should pass President Bush's tax cut plan because it is needed to stimulate economic growth.

OR

**Statement B:** Congress should not pass President Bush's tax cut plan because the federal budget is now in deficit and the costs of the war are unknown.

	<u>4/03</u>	<u>3/29-30/03</u>	
<b>Statement A</b> /Congress should pass President Bush's tax cut plan.....	43	38	[177]
<b>Statement B</b> /Congress should not pass President Bush's tax cut plan.....	49	52	
Not sure.....	8	10	

**FACTUALS:** Now I'm going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

- F1. How old are you? (IF "REFUSED," ASK:) Well, would you tell me which age group you belong to?

18-24.....	7	[209-210]
25-29.....	7	
30-34.....	10	
35-39.....	12	
40-44.....	7	
45-49.....	11	
50-54.....	11	
55-59.....	8	
60-64.....	7	
65-69.....	6	
70-74.....	6	
75 and over.....	7	
Refused.....	1	

- F2. What is the last grade that you completed in school?

Grade school.....	1	[211-212]
Some high school.....	3	
High school graduate.....	27	
Some college, no degree.....	18	
Vocational training/2-year college.....	12	
4-year college/bachelor's degree.....	19	
Some postgraduate work, no degree.....	3	
2-3 years postgraduate work/master's degree.....	13	
Doctoral/law degree.....	3	
Not sure/refused.....	1	

F3. Are you currently registered to vote in the precinct or election district in which you now live, or haven't you had a chance to register yet?

Registered.....	86	<b>[213]</b>
Not registered.....	12	
Not sure.....	2	

F4a. Are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

Yes, Hispanic.....	8	<b>[214]</b>
No, not Hispanic.....	90	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

F4b. What is your race--white, black, Asian, or something else?

White.....	78	<b>[215]</b>
Black.....	11	
Asian.....	1	
Other.....	3	
Hispanic (VOL).....	5	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

F5. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than ten thousand dollars, between ten thousand dollars and twenty thousand dollars, between twenty thousand dollars and thirty thousand dollars, between thirty thousand dollars and forty thousand dollars, between forty thousand dollars and fifty thousand dollars, between fifty thousand dollars and seventy-five thousand dollars, between seventy-five thousand dollars and one hundred thousand dollars, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$10,000.....	3	<b>[216]</b>
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000.....	8	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	10	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000.....	12	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000.....	12	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	19	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000.....	10	
More than \$100,000.....	13	
Not sure/refused.....	13	